

What is claimed is:

1. A monitoring apparatus capable of communicating with a management apparatus that centrally manages a plurality of monitoring apparatuses, the monitoring apparatus managing maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least operation information, comprising:
  - a management device that manages the maintenance information relating to the peripheral apparatuses; and
  - a communication control device that periodically transmits confirmation information including identification information identifying the monitoring apparatus, and the maintenance information managed by the management apparatus;wherein the management apparatus generates monitoring object management information based on a history of transmissions of the confirmation information carried out by said communication control device.
2. A monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a generation device that generates the confirmation information such that an identifier capable of identifying the confirmation information is contained in the confirmation information, and wherein said communication control device periodically transmits the confirmation information with the

identifier contained therein to the management apparatus.

3. A monitoring apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein said generation device generates an e-mail that  
5 contains the identification information identifying the monitoring apparatus therein and the identifier in a subject thereof.

4. A management apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of monitoring  
10 apparatuses that manage maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least operation information, for centrally managing the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, comprising:

15 a generation device that generates monitoring object management information based on a history of transmissions of confirmation information including identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and the maintenance information  
20 managed thereby, the transmissions being periodically carried out by each of the monitoring apparatuses.

5. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein the monitoring object management information comprises information indicative of a list capable of  
25 identifying at least one monitoring apparatus for which the history of transmissions meets predetermined conditions.

6. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a determination device that determines whether information capable of identifying at least one monitoring apparatus is to be included in  
5 the monitoring object management information, and wherein said generation device adds the information capable of identifying the at least one monitoring apparatus to the information indicative of the list when said determination device determines that the  
10 information capable of identifying the at least one monitoring apparatus is to be included in the monitoring object management information.

7. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a communication control device that  
15 transmits the monitoring object management information to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses.

8. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a recording device that records a time of next transmission of the confirmation  
20 information that is periodically transmitted by each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, and an abnormality determination device that, if the confirmation information has not arrived at the time of next transmission from any of the plurality of  
25 monitoring apparatuses, determines that an abnormality exists in the monitoring apparatus.

9. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4,

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further comprising a registration device that registers the identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and wherein said registration device registers identification information included in the confirmation information transmitted from any of the monitoring apparatuses, if the registration information has not yet been registered.

10. A management apparatus as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a registration device that registers the identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and wherein said registration device deletes from the registered identification information identifying any of the monitoring apparatuses for which the history of transmissions meets predetermined conditions.

11. A management method executed by a monitoring apparatus capable of communicating with a management apparatus that centrally manages a plurality of monitoring apparatuses, the monitoring apparatus managing maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least operation information, comprising:

a management step of managing the maintenance information relating to the peripheral apparatuses; and  
a communication control step of periodically transmitting confirmation information including identification information identifying the monitoring

apparatus, and the maintenance information managed by the management apparatus;

wherein the management apparatus generates monitoring object management information based on a history of transmissions of the confirmation information carried out in said communication control step.

12. A management method as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a generation step of creating the confirmation information such that an identifier capable of identifying the confirmation information is contained in the confirmation information, and wherein said communication control step comprises periodically transmitting the confirmation information with the identifier contained therein to the management apparatus.

13. A management method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said generation step comprises creating an e-mail that contains the identification information identifying the monitoring apparatus therein and the identifier in a subject thereof.

14. A management method executed by a management apparatus capable of communicating with a plurality of monitoring apparatuses that manage maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least operation information, for centrally managing the plurality of monitoring

apparatuses, comprising:

a generation step of creating monitoring object management information based on a history of transmissions of confirmation information including  
5 identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and the maintenance information managed thereby, the transmissions being periodically carried out by each of the monitoring apparatuses.

15 15. A management method as claimed in claim 14, wherein the monitoring object management information comprises information indicative of a list capable of identifying at least one monitoring apparatus for which the history of transmissions meets predetermined conditions.

15 16. A management method as claimed in claim 14, further comprising a determination step of determining whether information capable of identifying at least one monitoring apparatus is to be included in the monitoring object management information, and wherein  
20 said generation step comprises adding the information capable of identifying the at least one monitoring apparatus to the information indicative of the list when it is determined in said determination step that the information capable of identifying the at least one  
25 monitoring apparatus is to be included in the monitoring object management information.

17. A management method as claimed in claim 14,

further comprising a communication control step of transmitting the monitoring object management information to the plurality of monitoring apparatuses.

18. A management method as claimed in claim 14,  
5 further comprising a recording step of recording a time of next transmission of the confirmation information that is periodically transmitted by each of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, and an abnormality determination step of determining, if the confirmation  
10 information has not arrived at the time of next transmission from any of the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, that an abnormality exists in the monitoring apparatus.

19. A management method as claimed in claim 14,  
15 further comprising a registration step of registering the identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and wherein said registration step comprises registering identification information included in the confirmation information transmitted  
20 from any of the monitoring apparatuses, if it has not yet been registered.

20. A management method as claimed in claim 14,  
further comprising a registration step of registering the identification information identifying each of the  
25 monitoring apparatuses, and wherein said registration step comprises deleting from the registered identification information identification information

identifying any of the monitoring apparatuses for which the history of transmissions meets predetermined conditions.

21. A computer-executable management program for  
5 a monitoring apparatus capable of communicating with a management apparatus that centrally manages a plurality of monitoring apparatuses, the monitoring apparatus managing maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least  
10 operation information, comprising:

a management module for managing the maintenance information relating to the peripheral apparatuses; and

a communication control module for periodically transmitting confirmation information including  
15 identification information identifying the monitoring apparatus, and the maintenance information managed by the management apparatus;

wherein the management apparatus generates monitoring object management information based on a  
20 history of transmissions of the confirmation information carried out by said communication control module.

22. A computer-executable management program for a management apparatus capable of communicating with a  
25 plurality of monitoring apparatuses that manage maintenance information relating to a plurality of peripheral apparatuses, including at least operation



information, for centrally managing the plurality of monitoring apparatuses, comprising:

- a generation module for creating monitoring object management information based on a history of
- 5 transmissions of confirmation information including identification information identifying each of the monitoring apparatuses, and the maintenance information managed thereby, the transmissions being periodically carried out by each of the monitoring apparatuses.